



**The U.S. Department of State
Middle East Partnership Initiative**



Announces the

**Leaders for Democracy Fellowship 2016
(English Program)**

The MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) Program is a three-month program in the United States designed to give young civic leaders from the Middle East and North Africa an opportunity to gain valuable knowledge, experience, and skills as well as networking opportunities with like-minded peers and professionals.

The program runs from September until December 2016. It begins with five weeks of academic coursework at the University of Virginia (UVA) in Charlottesville, Virginia, where fellows focus on the concepts of leadership, peace and conflict mitigation, comparative politics, civic engagement, advocacy, communication, and change management among other topics. Fellows complete relevant seminars and workshops that include theoretical debates as well as active, practical skills-building sessions.

After completing the academic portion of the program, participants engage in a nine-week practicum placement within a relevant non-governmental, or public policy organization in Washington, DC. Through this program component, participants gain a practical work experience and learn about the ways that such organizations interact with government and civil society, while also gaining valuable knowledge, skills, and professional contacts to benefit their professional pursuits in their home countries.

After the program, fellows will create and implement follow-up projects in their home communities. Actions plans for the follow-up projects will be developed and finalized throughout the course of the program.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

The program is open to young professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 with a bachelor's degree and English language fluency. Fellows should be able to function at full capacity in an English-speaking academic and professional environment. Applicants should have five years of work experience, as well as demonstrated leadership skills and a desire to apply the skills they have learned during the fellowship to benefit an organization, sector, or specific community. Fellows' travel to the United States must be unaccompanied.

For more information about the Middle East Partnership Initiative, please go to: www.mepi.state.gov.



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Interested applicants should submit *in English* the following in their application package:

- Completed and signed application form which includes a brief biography and two essays.
(LDF Application Form - US Program)
- Completed and signed Professional Reference Form.
(LDF Application Annex A. Professional Reference Form - US Program)

****Deadline for submitting applications is April 21, 2016****

Please send completed applications to MEPIAlgiers@state.gov. Competitive applicants will be contacted to participate in a mandatory interview.

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